

1                                    A bill to be entitled  
 2            An act relating to the School Teacher Training and  
 3            Mentoring Program; creating s. 1012.988, F.S.;  
 4            establishing the School Teacher Training and Mentoring  
 5            Program within the Department of Education; providing  
 6            the purpose of the program; providing for the award of  
 7            stipends for classroom teacher mentorship, subject to  
 8            appropriation; providing for the proration of the  
 9            stipends under certain circumstances; providing  
 10           department and school district responsibilities  
 11           relating to the development of policies, curriculum,  
 12           and best practices relating to classroom instruction;  
 13           providing for rulemaking; providing an effective date.

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 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 17            Section 1.    Section 1012.988, Florida Statutes, is created  
 18            to read:

19            1012.988 School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program.—

20            (1) There is established within the Department of  
 21            Education the School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program. The  
 22            purpose of the program is to increase the effectiveness and  
 23            involvement of classroom teachers and improve student  
 24            achievement, equity, and excellence in the state's public  
 25            schools.

26       (2) The department shall:

27       (a)1. Subject to appropriation, provide funds to school  
28 districts to place retired classroom teachers who were evaluated  
29 as highly effective or current classroom teachers who are  
30 evaluated as highly effective as mentors to new classroom  
31 teachers; classroom teachers who are rated as needs improvement,  
32 developing, or unsatisfactory; and classroom teachers who are  
33 from a different demographic group, if needed.

34       2. Each stipend shall be in an amount equal to \$2,000. The  
35 department shall provide enough funds for each school district  
36 to establish three mentors at each school within the district.  
37 However, if the funds appropriated are not adequate to provide  
38 the maximum allowable award to each selected classroom teacher,  
39 awards must be prorated using the same percentage reduction.

40       (b) Increase classroom teacher involvement and input when  
41 developing state-level policies, curriculum, and best practices  
42 relating to classroom instruction.

43       (c) Create and expand nontraditional curriculum models and  
44 practices in reading and mathematics in an effort to steer  
45 systemic change.

46       (3) School districts shall:

47       (a) Provide a stipend to three retired classroom teachers  
48 who were evaluated as highly effective or current classroom  
49 teachers who are evaluated as highly effective at each school  
50 within the district. However, if there is a proven need at a

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51 school within the district, the school district may allocate  
52 more than three stipends to that school. The award of such  
53 stipends may be part of a school district's professional  
54 development certification and education competency program under  
55 s. 1012.56(8).

56 (b) Increase classroom teacher involvement and input when  
57 developing district-level policies, curriculum, and best  
58 practices relating to classroom instruction.

59 (4) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to  
60 administer this section.

61 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.